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1972/10/30

SITUATION: PARIS TALKS
SUBJECT CATAGORY: DRV

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:
IMMEDIATE
FJK916
O 301924Z OCT 72
FM USDEL FRANCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6349

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE 1023

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USDEL FRANCE 20700
SUBJ: PRESS CONFERENCE BY MADAME BINH, OCTOBER 30
1. SUMMARY: MADAME NGUYEN THI BINH HOSTED PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERNOON OCTOBER 30 AT PRG INFORMATION OFFICE IN PARIS. IN COURSE OF HER REMARKS, SHE DENOUNCED US ATTEMPTS TO "SABOTAGE" NEGOTIATIONS, REITERATED PRG GOODWILL AND READINESS TO OBSERVE ALL PROVISIONS OF DRAFT ACCORD, INDULGED IN STANDARD ANTI-THIEU POLEMIC AND DECLARED THAT THIEU MUST BE "PUT ASIDE" (ALTHOUGH LATTER ASSERTION WAS PLACED IN CONTEXT OF POLITICAL PROCESS ENVISIONED IN THE ACCORD). BINH DEMANDED THAT US "HONOR ITS ENGAGEMENTS" AND DECLARED THAT IF SIGNATURE WAS NOT FORTHCOMING ON OCTOBER 31, "US MUST BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY". END SUMMARY
2. IN HER OPENING REMARKS MADAME BINH DECLARED THAT US IS OBVIOUSLY ATTEMPTING TO SABOTAGE NEGOTIATIONS, AS EVIDENCED BY POSTPONEMENT OF DATE FOR SIGNATURE, THAT FOR ITS PART, PRG HAS PLEDGED TO SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVE THE DRAFT ACCORD, AND THAT THE US MUST HONOR ITS "ENGAGEMENTS" AND SIGN THE ACCORD ON OCTOBER 31. SHE POLEMICIZED AT USUAL LENGTH AND IN USUAL TERMS CONCERNING PRESIDENT THIEU, SAID THAT THE US SHOULD CEASE SUPPORT FOR THIEU AND THAT THIEU MUST BE "PUT ASIDE".
3. WHEN QUESTIONED AS TO HER STATEMENT THAT THIEU MUST BE "PUT ASIDE", MADAME BINH PLACED THIS IN CONTEXT OF CURRENT NEGOTIATING SITUATION AND POLITICAL PROCESS EN-

******* WHSR COMMENTS *******

HOWE, LORD

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Authority E012958
By (w)(1) NARA Date 3/6/00

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VISAGED IN NINE POINT ACCORD. SHE ASSERTED THAT THE PRG HAS NEVER CEASED DEMANDING THIEU'S RESIGNATION, ADDING THAT HE IS AN OBSTACLE TO PEACE AND DECLARING THAT HIS RESIGNATION WOULD BE THE EASIEST WAY TO REMOVE THAT OBSTACLE. SHE ADMITTED THAT PRG AND GVN WOULD CO-EXIST DURING THREE-MONTH TRANSITION PERIOD, BUT REITERATED THAT AS LONG AS THIEU REMAINS IN POWER, TRUE PEACE AND "NATIONAL CONCORD" CANNOT BE REALIZED. SHE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THIEU'S OPPOSITION TO ACCORD ITSELF AND TO ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL CONCORD IS A SELF-CONDEMNATORY POSITION.

4. ASKED AT SEVERAL POINTS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF ACCORD IS NOT SIGNED ON OCTOBER 31, MADAME BINH CONFINED HERSELF TO RITUALISTIC ASSERTION THAT US WOULD "BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY". SHE ALSO REFERRED JOURNALISTS TO OCTOBER 28 PRG STATEMENT AND ITS DECLARATION OF PRG INTENT TO FIGHT VIGOROUSLY ON IN THE ABSENCE OF A SETTLEMENT. ASKED WHETHER PRG PLANNED TO ATTEND THURSDAY PLENARY SESSION IF NO SIGNATURE WAS FORTHCOMING, MADAME BINH SAID THAT SHE WOULD BE THERE BUT GAVE NO INDICATION OF WHAT THE PRG MESSAGE WOULD BE. ASKED WHAT PRG ATTITUDE WOULD BE TOWARD AN ADDITIONAL US/DRV PRIVATE MEETING, MADAME BINH STATED THAT PRG HAS ALWAYS AGREED TO HOLDING OF SUCH PRIVATE MEETINGS, BUT REITERATED THAT ACCORD HAS BEEN AGREED UPON IN ITS PRESENT FORM AND SHOULD BE SIGNED ON 31ST.

5. ASKED WHY PRG AGREED TO "MAJOR CONCESSION" IN ALLOWING FREEING OF VIETNAMESE CIVILIAN DETAINEES TO BE SUBJECT OF GVN-PRG NEGOTIATIONS, BINH NOTED THAT MATTER HAD BEEN TREATED BY BOTH KISSINGER AND THUY IN OCTOBER 26 PRESS CONFERENCES BUT DECLARED THAT PRG POSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO SEEK RELEASE OF ALL "PERSONNEL" CAPTURED IN THE WAR. MADAME BINH ADDED THAT SINCE, OBJECTIVELY, THERE IS "NO REASON" FOR PRG TO RELEASE US PRISONERS WHILE "PATRIOTS" REMAIN IN JAIL, US HAS RESPONSIBILITY TO "PUT PRESSURE" ON SAIGON TO ASSURE STRICT APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS IN THE ACCORD DEALING WITH CIVILIAN DETAINEES.

6. ASKED WHETHER SHE BELIEVED ACCORD CONTAINED ADEQUATE GUARANTEES FOR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION BY NEUTRALIST ELEMENT, MADAME BINH NOTED THAT ACCORD AS PUBLISHED IS ONLY A SUMMARY AND THAT NEUTRALIST STATUS IS TREATED MUCH MORE COMPLETELY IN FULL TEXT. SHE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON POSSIBLE COMPOSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL MECHANISM OR ON POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

PORTER

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